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AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND  
PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

7 December, 2004

The Commissioner of Patents  
WODEN ACT 2606

**Our Ref:** 12184581/ARS/skp  
**Re:** VSL Prestressing (Aust) Pty Ltd  
International Patent Application No. PCT/AU03/01565  
"Protective device"

Sir

Reference is made to the Written Opinion which has issued in connection with this International patent application.

We request that the claims be amended in line with the attached Statement of Proposed Amendments.

Claim 1 has been revised to more clearly define the arrangement by which the two parts are connected together. As now defined, the two parts are connected in an overlapping configuration when connected together and this is effected by relative movement between the two parts in the axial direction.

Cited specification US 6,431,216 discloses an arrangement comprising two parts having inclined mating surfaces which have interlocking structures thereon to resist longitudinal and transverse movement. It is readily apparent that the interlocking structures are relatively complicated compared with the simple overlapping arrangement of the present invention and is such it is felt the invention as defined by newly proposed Claim 1 is clearly distinguished over and above this prior art document.

Claim 2 as proposed further includes the feature that one of the parts is a major segment of a circle and the other part is a minor segment of a circle. This feature further distinguishes the invention over and above the cited prior art. The further claims include additional features which further distinguish the invention over the aforementioned prior art specification.

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The other citations are even less relevant than the aforementioned US patent specification.

Favourable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Yours faithfully

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Enc.

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JCO6 Rec'd PTO 18 MAY 2005

AUSTRALIAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. PCT/AU03/01565

VSL PRESTRESSING (AUST) PTY LTD

FIRST STATEMENT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

1. Delete claims pages 6 and 7 at present on file and replace with new claims pages 6 and 7 forwarded herewith, together with a marked up copy to show changes.

7 December, 2004

## CLAIMS

1. A protective device for use in the protection of at least a portion of an elongated article, the protective device including a main body, first and second parts which are connectible together such that, in an assembled position the main body has a chamber therein, the first and second parts each having two longitudinal extending side edge portions respective side edge portions of the first part being adapted to cooperate with respective side edge portions of the second part to connect the two parts together in the assembled position, said-
2. ~~A protective device according to claim 1 wherein the cooperating side edge portions of the first and second parts overlapping when in the assembled position and being-~~
3. ~~A protective device according to claim 2 wherein the first and second parts are connected together by relative movement in the axial direction so as to adopt the assembled position.~~
42. A protective device according to claim 31 wherein the first and second parts are partially circular when viewed in cross-section, the first part comprising a major segment of a circle and the second part forming a minor segment of a circle.
53. A protective device according to claim 42 wherein the side edge portions of the first or second part include a recessed section for receiving the side edge portion of the other part.
64. A protective device according to any preceding claim wherein when in the assembled position the main body is open at at least one end.
75. A protective device according to any preceding claim wherein when in the assembled position the main body is open at both ends.

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86. A protective device according to any preceding claim wherein one of the ends of the main body is belled for receiving the other end of an adjacent device.

5 97. A protective device according to any preceding claim further including insulation on the internal surface of one or both parts of the main body.

108. A protective device according to any preceding claim further including a locating element which projects from the inner wall of one of the two parts.

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119. A protective device according to any preceding claim wherein the main body of the device is formed from material known as reactive powder concrete or ultra high performance fibre reinforced concrete.

15 1210. A protective device according to claim 119 wherein the material is Ductal (trade mark).

## CLAIMS

1. A protective device for use in the protection of at least a portion of an elongated article, the protective device including a main body, first and second parts which are connectible together such that, in an assembled position the main body has a chamber therein, the first and second parts each having two longitudinal extending side edge portions respective side edge portions of the first part being adapted to cooperate with respective side edge portions of the second part to connect the two parts together in the assembled position, said first and second parts overlapping when in the assembled position and being connected together by relative movement in the axial direction so as to adopt the assembled position.
2. A protective device according to claim 1 wherein the first and second parts are partially circular when viewed in cross-section, the first part comprising a major segment of a circle and the second part forming a minor segment of a circle.
3. A protective device according to claim 2 wherein the side edge portions of the first or second part include a recessed section for receiving the side edge portion of the other part.
4. A protective device according to any preceding claim wherein when in the assembled position the main body is open at at least one end.
5. A protective device according to any preceding claim wherein when in the assembled position the main body is open at both ends.
6. A protective device according to any preceding claim wherein one of the ends of the main body is belled for receiving the other end of an adjacent device.
7. A protective device according to any preceding claim further including insulation on the internal surface of one or both parts of the main body.

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8. A protective device according to any preceding claim further including a locating element which projects from the inner wall of one of the two parts.
- 5 9. A protective device according to any preceding claim wherein the main body of the device is formed from material known as reactive powder concrete or ultra high performance fibre reinforced concrete.
- ( 10. A protective device according to claim 9 wherein the material is Ductal (trade  
10 mark).